



## Fallen War Heroes Honored by Legislature

*31 Families Receive Hawaii Medal of Honor at a Joint Legislative Session*

By Rep. K. Mark Takai, 3/26/2008 10:04:13 AM

*AUTHOR'S NOTE: The Hawaii State Senate and Hawaii State House of Representatives convened in a special joint session to recognize military service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice on Tuesday, March 25, 2008, in the House Chambers. The families of these fallen service members received the Hawaii Medal of Honor on behalf of their loved ones. In 2005, the Legislature passed House Bill 8, which created the Hawaii Medal of Honor (HMOH). This special medal is awarded on behalf of the people of the State of Hawaii to an individual who was killed in action while serving our country as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Recipients of the medal include members of the United Armed Forces, the United States Military Reserves, and the Hawaii National Guard, who were residents of the State of Hawaii, attended an educational institution in Hawaii, or were stationed in Hawaii by order of the United States Department of Defense. As of Jan. 31, 2008, Hawaii has lost 217 service members with Hawaii ties, who have sacrificed their lives while in the line of duty. A listing of those service members who will be recipients of the HMOH is attached. The primary next of kin and their families for each servicemember were invited to attend. People from across Hawaii and the U.S. Mainland, from as far away as New York and Florida, took part. These are the floor remarks by Rep. K. Mark Takai on Feb. 4, 2008, about this event.*

It has almost been five years since the War on Terrorism began. While there continues to be much debate for and against this war, there is no debate about the tremendous sacrifices made by our service members and their families. Between March 29, 2003 and January 31, 2008, we in Hawaii have lost 219 servicemembers, who have sacrificed their lives while in the line of duty. We lost a 31 servicemembers during the past year. To pay a special tribute to these heroes and to their families, we passed House Bill 8 in 2005, which became Act 21. House Bill 8 created the Hawaii Medal of Honor.

This special medal is awarded on behalf of the people of the State of Hawaii to an individual who has been killed in action while serving our country as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Recipients of the Hawaii Medal of Honor include members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States military reserves, and the Hawaii National Guard, who were residents of the State of Hawaii, attended an educational institution in Hawaii, or was stationed in Hawaii by order of the United States Department of Defense.

The Hawaii Medal of Honor will be awarded to family representatives of these men and women at a ceremony held during a joint session of this Legislature on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 2 p.m. in this chamber. Families have been invited from towns like Middlefield, Massachusetts and Kingston Springs, Tennessee to as far as the Philippines and Morocco to attend this ceremony.

Three years ago while serving on active duty, I had the responsibility of serving as the Casualty Assistance Officer

for the family of Sergeant Deyson Cariaga, the Hawaii Army National Guard's only casualty from Hawaii during the recent deployment of the 29th Brigade Combat Team. That duty, the duty as Casualty Assistance Officer, was my most difficult challenge in my entire National Guard career. The Cariaga Family and Mrs. Theresa Inouye, his mother in particular, continue to grieve for their loss. I don't wish what they have experienced and continue to experience on any family. This resolution and the actions that we have and will take are to honor soldiers, like Sergeant Cariaga, and parents like Theresa Inouye.

In the past five years, the War against Terrorism has changed our world and our lives in a profound way. Ultimately, it's not about politics, it's not about money, and it's not even about winning. It's all about the families and their loved ones and what these brave men and women sacrificed to our country.



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## **HAWAII MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS**

""This list was compiled by Rep. K. Mark Takai and is current as of January 31, 2008. The order of listing is by date of death. Please contact Lisa Vargas from Rep. Takai's office for additional information on the service members identified below. She can be reached at (808) 586-8455 or at [reptakai@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptakai@capitol.hawaii.gov)""

United States Air Force Airman First Class Carl Jerome Ware, Jr.

United States Navy Lieutenant Commander Morgan C. Tulang

United States Army Sergeant Forrest D. Cauthorn

United States Army Private First Class Jay S. Cajimat

United States Marine Corps Major Douglas A. Zembiec

United States Army Corporal Casey P. Zylman

United States Army First Lieutenant Keith N. Heidtman

United States Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Theodore U. Church

United States Army Sergeant Richard V. Correa

United States Air Force Senior Airman William N. Newman

United States Army Specialist Farid Elazzouzi

United States Army Sergeant Derek T. Roberts

United States Army Specialist Val J. Borm

United States Army First Lieutenant Frank B. Walkup IV

United States Army Sergeant Michael J. Montpetit

United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Robert A. Lynch

United States Army Specialist Tyler R. Seideman

United States Army Specialist Jessy G. Pollard

United States Army Specialist Michael A. Hook

United States Army Corporal Nathan C. Hubbard

United States Army Corporal Joshua S. Harmon

United States Army Corporal Phillip J. Brodnick

United States Army Corporal Jeremy P. Bouffard

United States Army Sergeant Garrett I. McLead

United States Army Staff Sergeant Jason L. Paton

United States Army Captain Derek A. Dobogai

United States Army Sergeant Alexander U. Gagalac

United States Navy Petty Officer Third Class Mark R. Cannon

United States Army Private First Class Casey P. Mason

United States Navy Petty Officer First Class Victor W. Jeffries

United States Army Specialist Jon M. Schoolcraft III

*Rep. K. Mark Takai is a Democrat representing the District of Pearl City on Oahu.*

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